



S3 Housing Connect Zoom Meeting

July 8, 2021

Attendance (22 total): Kendra Martin, Commissioner Bill Carver, Max Dolan, John Kirkman, Bob Hughes, Kimberly Rau, Ruth Price, Hamer Carter, John Paschal, Lisa Bryant, Joey Mosley, Jessica Mashburn, Marcia Johnson, Tamara Brogan, John Campbell, Katherine Holt, Gabby Murillo, Kerry Bashaw, Cindy Hall, Kimberly Rau, Darla Shoults

Staff: Karen Kennedy, Rachel Mann, Stan Holt

1. **Welcome, Mission Statement**, Tamara Brogan, Chair
2. **Advocacy Committee Discussion**, Rachel Mann

This new committee met for the first time yesterday at the Brick Capital CDC facility. Nine people were present. The objective of this committee is to discuss public policies and best practices regarding homelessness and affordable housing and to advocate for the adoption of these practices and policies with public officials. At yesterday's meeting, we talked about what affordable housing really is, and Kerry Bashaw provided a definition. We also discussed different forms of housing. It was decided that the structure of this committee would be that there are three "tiers" (subcommittees) that research and discuss new policies and practices. At each meeting, each of the tiers will bring back policies or practices in their category to discuss and debate with the larger group. At this time, the three tiers are 1) local population/data, 2) policy and incentives, and 3) affordable/supportive housing. This committee will meet once a month, and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4th at 2 PM. Gabby Murillo is the chair and Kerry is vice-chair. If you want to join, let Rachel or Gabby know!

3. **Eviction Moratorium and Press Release**, Kerry Bashaw

Further guidance from the federal government regarding eviction prevention will be coming soon. The eviction moratorium was extended by the CDC through the end of this month. However, it was ended locally by NC's state government. The federal level mandates probably supersede anything at a local level, but Kerry will be following up with the local magistrate to check. Kerry wrote a press release on evictions that was going to be distributed last month, but since the moratorium was extended, it will be released at the end of this month. Stan suggested that evictions be a standing S3 topic of conversation for the next 6 months. S3 meetings could be focused on how we're supporting each other, stories, brainstorming, etc. Tamara asked the group if this should be a standing S3 topic, and everyone unanimously agreed. Kerry said he would continue hosting ad hoc eviction committees outside of overall S3 meetings, if needed. Max Dolan asked if people could still be evicted if there is illegal activity. Kerry said the moratorium is more focused on those who are unable to pay rent; It does not cover lease renewal or criminal activity situations. John P asked what to do when people show up at BOLM and say they're being evicted. Kendra said they should still call 211 first. People should also call the HOPE Program to see if they can get rental assistance. If anyone has questions or needs help applying for the program, they can call 1-888-927-5467 to speak with the HOPE call center or visit hope.nc.gov. Ruth suggested eviction resources be added to the S3 website. Rachel said there was an eviction resource page on the website, but it was hidden due to changes in funding. Rachel will bring the page back and update it.

4. **CCCC Fall Event**, Cindy Hall

On September 8th, Community Engagement Committee will host the Project Homeless Connect event at CCCC. Cindy will send out a registration form to all agencies to see if they want a table at the event. Any agency that can provide resources to homeless students is welcome. Lunch will be provided. Tables will be set up at 10 AM, and the event will be from 11 AM-1 PM. Flyers will be handed out to students when the Fall semester begins.

5. **S3 Committee Structure Discussion**, Stan Holt

Stan said that we need to begin to start thinking about accomplishments and goals as individual committees. Stan created a Google Form survey for S3 members to share their input about S3's progress and goals. Everyone took time to fill it out. Kendra asked if we'd meet in person for another strategic planning session. Stan said hopefully we can accomplish a large part of that planning online, due to COVID.

6. **Committee Reports** (Some committees took July off)

Services- Did not meet

Housing- Did not meet

Community Outreach and Engagement- Did not meet

Eviction Prevention- Did not meet

Advocacy- See earlier report from Rachel

7. **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

Gabby shared the Elks Lodge wants to partner with S3 to offer bags for clients who are moving into new homes. There is potential grant money available for this project as well. Stan shared that the Emergency Solutions Grant funding application has opened. There are trainings people could attend for the ESG application. Permanent Supportive Housing is not a priority for this funding.

Kendra told everyone about SAGA's job fair on Wednesday, July 21 at the Civic Center. This is a rare opportunity for people to negotiate salary and benefits and meet in person with employers.

Karen talked with Bill Stone about having in-person meetings at the McSwain Center. The conference room is booked in September and October, but we could potentially reserve it for the late Fall/Winter months. Kendra said we should do our best and try, but keep an eye out for any changes with COVID. We need to consider a large location we could meet in for September/October if people are interested in meeting in person. Cindy suggested meeting at First Baptist Church, and Darla suggested meeting at the Navigation Center.

Commissioner Carver told everyone that NC Governor Roy Cooper is continuing to discuss funding going directly towards housing-related issues. There is a suggested match component for the County; 80/20 split proposed right now. Kerry asked if funding could come from private sources, like banks or donations. Commissioner Carver said there aren't many details yet. He asked how we'd choose a particular project that would be attractive. Kerry said to choose an attractive project, you often have to

do preliminary work first, such as studies, get plans. We would need to be “shovel ready,” but need specific information on the funding first.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.